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10/713,445

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David Alan Burton

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EXAMINER

WALTER, CRAIG E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2188

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DELIVERY MODE

10/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/713,445

Applicant(s)

BURTON ET AL.

Examiner

Craig E. Walter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 21 September 2007 has been entered.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-26, and 28 are pending in the Application.
Claim 27 remains canceled.
Claims 1-26, and 28 are rejected.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's amendments and arguments filed on 21 September 2007 in response to the office action mailed on 21 June 2007 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. Therefore, the rejections made in the previous office action are maintained, and restated below, with changes as needed to address the amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-13, 15-26, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunham (US Patent 6,269,431 B1), in further view of Manley et al. (US PG Publication 2003/0182325 A1), hereinafter Manley.

As for claim 1, Dunham teaches an apparatus for managing incremental storage, the apparatus comprising:

a policy management module (host - Fig. 1, element 20) configured to set a storage management policy for storage capacity of a backup virtual volume (secondary storage - Fig. 1, element 29), wherein the backup virtual volume is configured to store storage data from an storage operation on a primary volume and the virtual volume comprises at least one volume of a storage pool (col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume).

a storage pool management module (backup agent - Fig. 1, element 25) configured to monitor available storage capacity of the backup virtual volume and to change the storage capacity of the backup virtual volume in response to the storage management policy and the available storage capacity (the backup agent responds to a request made by the host for a backup routine (i.e. change in storage capacity). The backup agent monitors the capacity by checking if any spare storage is available – Fig. 15 flow chart, col. 21, lines 16-63), wherein changing the storage capacity comprise dynamically allocating and de-allocating a storage volume of the virtual volume to the backup virtual volume in response to the change to the storage capacity (Fig. 15, if a

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spare volume is available, the next virtual volume will be assigned to it – col. 21, lines 16-63). Note additionally Dunham teaches de-allocating volumes in the storage after modification access – col. 6, line 33 through col. 7, line 17; and

an incremental log (secondary directory - Fig. 1, element 28)

corresponding to the backup virtual volume, the incremental log configured to map a virtual address of the backup virtual volume assigned to the incremental storage data to a physical storage address of the at least one storage volume of the virtual volume (col. 7, line 18 through col. 8, line 15 and Fig. 10 – secondary directory is responsible for appending information to a file (i.e. log) to track and map information stored in the storage pool).

Despite these teachings Dunham (including virtual backup volumes), he fails to specifically teach incremental snapshots (i.e. storage) as claimed by Applicant, rather he teaches performing a full backup.

Manley however discloses a system and method for asynchronous mirroring of snapshots at a destination using a purgatory directory and inode mapping in which incremental snapshots are added subsequent to the base snapshot (paragraph 0074, all lines).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for Dunham to further include Manley's asynchronous mirroring of snapshots into his own virtual storage system. By doing so, Dunham have a more efficient snapshot mechanism, capable of only storing and transferring data that has been

modified, rather than performing a full backup as taught by Manley in paragraph 0015, all lines.

As for claims 12 and 24, Dunham teaches a method (and medium comprising code configured) for managing incremental storage, the method (and code) comprising (configured to):

monitoring available storage capacity of the backup virtual volume and to change the storage capacity of the backup virtual volume in response to the storage management policy and the available storage capacity (the backup agent responds to a request made by the host for a backup routine (i.e. change in storage capacity). The backup agent monitors the capacity by checking if any spare storage is available – Fig. 15 flow chart, col. 21, lines 16-63), wherein the backup virtual volume is configured to store incremental storage data from an incremental storage operation of a primary volume and the backup virtual volume comprises at least one storage volume of a storage pool, the at least one storage volume allocated to the backup virtual volume (col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume).

dynamically allocating and de-allocating a storage volume of the storage pool to the backup virtual volume in response to the change to the storage capacity of the backup virtual volume (Fig. 15, if a spare volume is available, the next virtual volume will be assigned to it – col. 21, lines 16-63. Note additionally Dunham teaches de-allocating volumes in the storage after modification access –

col. 6, line 33 through col. 7, line 17 – more specifically, one the data is written the capacity is no longer available, hence it is deallocated); and

mapping an incremental log (secondary directory - Fig. 1, element 28) corresponding to the virtual volume a virtual address, assigned to the incremental storage data to a physical storage address of the at least one storage volume of the storage pool (col. 7, line 18 through col. 8, line 15 and Fig. 10 – secondary directory is responsible for appending information to a file (i.e. log) to track and map information stored in the storage pool).

Despite these teachings (including virtual backup volumes), Dunham fails to specifically teach incremental snapshots (i.e. storage) as claimed by Applicant, rather he teaches performing a full backup.

Manley however discloses a system and method for asynchronous mirroring of snapshots at a destination using a purgatory directory and inode mapping in which incremental snapshots are added subsequent to the base snapshot (paragraph 0074, all lines).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for Dunham to further include Manley's asynchronous mirroring of snapshots into his own virtual storage system. By doing so, Dunham have a more efficient snapshot mechanism, capable of only storing and transferring data that has been modified, rather than performing a full backup as taught by Manley in paragraph 0015, all lines.

As for claim 16, Dunham teaches a system for managing incremental storage, the system comprising:

- a primary volume (col. 19, lines 36-47 describes at least one primary and virtual volume);

- a baseline volume configured to store a baseline backup copy of data on the primary volume (Fig. 1, element 29 – secondary storage);

- a storage pool with at least one storage volume (secondary storage - Fig. 1, element 29) configured to store incremental storage data from an incremental storage operation of the primary volume in response to changes in data stored on the primary volume after storing the baseline backup copy on the baseline volume, where the storage volume is allocated as a backup virtual volume (col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume). Referring to Fig. 15, the host instructs the backup agent to allocate storage area volumes during required for the backup operation;

- a policy management module (host - Fig. 1, element 20) configured to set a storage management policy for storage capacity of the backup virtual volume (secondary storage - Fig. 1, element 29);

- a storage pool management module (backup agent - Fig. 1, element 25) configured to monitor available storage capacity of the backup virtual volume and to change the storage capacity of the backup virtual volume in response to the storage management policy and the available storage capacity (the backup agent responds to a request made by the host for a backup routine (i.e. change in storage capacity). The

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backup agent monitors the capacity by checking if any spare storage is available – Fig. 15 flow chart, col. 21, lines 16-63), wherein changing the storage capacity comprise dynamically allocating and de-allocating a storage volume of the storage pool to the backup virtual volume in response to the change to the storage capacity (Fig. 15, if a spare volume is available, the next virtual volume will be assigned to it – col. 21, lines 16-63). Note additionally Dunham teaches de-allocating volumes after modification access – col. 6, line 33 through col. 7, line 17; and

an incremental log (secondary directory - Fig. 1, element 28)

corresponding to the backup virtual volume, the incremental log configured to map a virtual address of the backup virtual volume assigned to the incremental storage data to a physical storage address of the at least one storage volume of the virtual volume (col. 7, line 18 through col. 8, line 15 and Fig. 10 – secondary directory is responsible for appending information to a file (i.e. log) to track and map information stored in the storage pool).

Despite these teachings (including backup virtual volumes), Dunham fails to specifically teach incremental snapshots (i.e. storage) as claimed by Applicant, rather he teaches performing a full backup.

Manley however discloses a system and method for asynchronous mirroring of snapshots at a destination using a purgatory directory and inode mapping in which incremental snapshots are added subsequent to the base snapshot (paragraph 0074, all lines).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for Dunham to further include Manley's asynchronous mirroring of snapshots into his own virtual storage system. By doing so, Dunham have a more efficient snapshot mechanism, capable of only storing and transferring data that has been modified, rather than performing a full backup as taught by Manley in paragraph 0015, all lines.

As for claim 23, Dunham teaches an apparatus for managing incremental storage, the apparatus comprising:

means for monitoring available storage capacity of a backup virtual volume and to change the storage capacity of the backup virtual volume in response to the storage management policy and the available storage capacity (the backup agent responds to a request made by the host for a backup routine (i.e. change in storage capacity). The backup agent monitors the capacity by checking if any spare storage is available – Fig. 15 flow chart, col. 21, lines 16-63), wherein the backup virtual volume is configured to store incremental storage data from an incremental storage operation on a primary volume and the backup virtual volume comprises at least one storage volume of a storage pool, the at least one storage volume allocated to the backup virtual (col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume).

means for dynamically allocating and de-allocating a storage volume of the storage pool to the backup virtual volume in response to the change to the storage capacity of the backup virtual volume (Fig. 15, if a spare volume is

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available, the next virtual volume will be assigned to it – col. 21, lines 16-63.

Note additionally Dunham teaches de-allocating volumes in the storage after modification access – col. 6, line 33 through col. 7, line 17) - col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume; and

means for mapping an incremental log (secondary directory - Fig. 1, element 28) corresponding to the backup virtual volume a virtual address, assigned to the incremental storage data to a physical storage address of the at least one storage volume of the storage pool (col. 7, line 18 through col. 8, line 15 and Fig. 10 – secondary directory is responsible for appending information to a file (i.e. log) to track and map information stored in the storage pool).

Despite these teachings (including backup virtual volumes), Dunham fails to specifically teach incremental snapshots (i.e. storage) as claimed by Applicant, rather he teaches performing a full backup.

Manley however discloses a system and method for asynchronous mirroring of snapshots at a destination using a purgatory directory and inode mapping in which incremental snapshots are added subsequent to the base snapshot (paragraph 0074, all lines).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for Dunham to further include Manley's asynchronous mirroring of snapshots into his own virtual storage system. By doing so, Dunham have a more efficient snapshot mechanism, capable of only storing and transferring data that has been

modified, rather than performing a full backup as taught by Manley in paragraph 0015, all lines.

As for claim 28, Dunham teaches a method for deploying a computer readable medium for managing incremental storage, the method comprising:

determining customer requirements for incremental storage (Fig. 1, element 23 – the user (i.e. customer) inputs the backup requirements via the host, element 20). This input helps the system to determine the specifics of backup required by said user;

deploying a storage management program for managing incremental storage, the storage management program comprising (the backup agent's operations are deployed via the backup software (Fig. 1, element 224))

monitoring available storage capacity of a backup virtual volume and to change the storage capacity of the incremental backup virtual volume in response to the storage management policy and the available storage capacity (the backup agent responds to a request made by the host for a backup routine (i.e. change in storage capacity). The backup agent monitors the capacity by checking if any spare storage is available – Fig. 15 flow chart, col. 21, lines 16-63), wherein the backup virtual volume is configured to store incremental storage data from an incremental storage operation of a primary volume and the backup virtual volume comprises at least one storage volume of a storage pool, the at least one storage volume allocated to the backup virtual volume (col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume).

dynamically allocating and de-allocating a storage volume of the storage pool to the backup virtual volume in response to the change to the storage capacity of the backup virtual volume (Fig. 15, if a spare volume is available, the next virtual volume will be assigned to it – col. 21, lines 16-63. Note additionally Dunham teaches de-allocating volumes after modification access – col. 6, line 33 through col. 7, line 17) - col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume; and

mapping an incremental log (secondary directory - Fig. 1, element 28) corresponding to the backup virtual volume a virtual address of the backup virtual volume, assigned to the incremental storage data to a physical storage address of the at least one storage volume of the storage pool (col. 7, line 18 through col. 8, line 15 and Fig. 10 – secondary directory is responsible for appending information to a file (i.e. log) to track and map information stored in the storage pool). and;

maintaining the storage management program (col. 15, lines 32-54 – the backup program can be reprogrammed and loaded via a floppy disk).

Despite these teachings (including backup virtual volumes), Dunham fails to specifically teach incremental snapshots (i.e. storage) as claimed by Applicant, rather he teaches performing a full backup.

Manley however discloses a system and method for asynchronous mirroring of snapshots at a destination using a purgatory directory and inode mapping in which

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incremental snapshots are added subsequent to the base snapshot (paragraph 0074, all lines).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for Dunham to further include Manley's asynchronous mirroring of snapshots into his own virtual storage system. By doing so, Dunham have a more efficient snapshot mechanism, capable of only storing and transferring data that has been modified, rather than performing a full backup as taught by Manley in paragraph 0015, all lines.

As for claim 2, Dunham teaches the physical storage address as comprising a volume identifier (col. 6, lines 33-63, the pointer points to each physical unit (i.e. the directory intrinsically stores information to identify the address of the data stored in the memory, with the corresponding physical volume)).

As for claim 3, Dunham teaches the storage pool management module as being further configured to allocated and de-allocate a portion of a storage volume to backup virtual volume (Fig. 15, if a spare volume is available, the next virtual volume will be assigned to it – col. 21, lines 16-63. Note additionally Dunham teaches de-allocating volumes after modification access – col. 6, line 33 through col. 7, line 17), wherein the storage pool comprises at least one storage volume allocated as a virtual volume (col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume).

As for claims 4, 15 and 26, Dunham teaches the apparatus (method and medium) as further comprising a read module configured to read data stored in the

backup virtual volume by way of a data path independent from a data path used to store the storage data (Fig. 2, each host (31, 32, 33) can read data from each storage system via a plurality of paths (i.e. through the ring network (30)). More specifically, each host can communicate either with the secondary storage device either directly, or indirectly via either of the two data storage subsystems)

As for claim 5, Dunham teaches the storage management module as allocating and de-allocating storage volumes without user input (once the backup policy is set, the host communicates with the backup agent irrespective of the user input in order to effectively manage and backup the volumes (Fig. 15)).

As for claim 6, Dunham teaches the storage pool management module as being further configured to allocate a second storage volume to the backup virtual volume in response to a reduction in available space on a first storage volume (Fig. 15, more volumes will be allocated to create sufficient memory to store the copied data),

As for claims 7 and 8, Dunham teaches the storage pool as comprising a RAID storage array (col. 9, lines 34-53).

As for claim 9, Dunham teaches the incremental log as comprising a lookup table (the directory is used by the system to look up the correspondence between physical and virtual addresses – col. 7, line 18 through col. 8, line 15).

As for claim 10, Dunham teaches the storage pool management module as further configured to increase the storage capacity in response to the available storage capacity increasing above a first storage capacity threshold and to decrease the storage capacity in response to the available storage capacity decreasing below a second

storage capacity threshold (Fig. 15, the allocation and de-allocation is dynamically determined based on available storage capacity).

As for claim 11, Dunham teaches the storage pool management module as being further configured to de-allocate storage volumes wherein the de-allocated storage volumes are available for allocation to a virtual volume unrelated to the backup virtual volume (referring to Fig. 2, the plurality of data storage subsystems allows for the de-allocation of memory within one of the subsystems. The de-allocated data may at a later time be reallocated, just not to a storage area within the other subsystems storage pools).

As for claims 13 and 25, Dunham teaches providing incremental snapshot data of the primary volume in response to a replication operation (col. 5, lines 57 through col. 6, line 6 – the snapshot operation is performed in response to the backup operation).

As for claim 17, Dunham teaches a replication module configured to transmit the incremental data from the primary volume to the storage pool (Fig. 3, element 56 – the remote link adapter is used to transmit data from the primary storage subsystem to the secondary backup virtual volume (i.e. within the storage pool)).

As for claim 19, Dunham teaches:

the primary volume comprising a plurality of primary volumes (Fig. 3, elements 59-62);

the backup virtual volume comprises a backup virtual volume corresponding to each primary volume, each backup volume comprising at least one storage volume of the storage pool (the secondary storage area stores backup data of the primary volume

in order to maintain a copy of the data that corresponds to the data stored in the primary volumes);

the incremental log comprising an incremental log corresponding to each backup virtual volume (col. 7, line 18 through col. 8, line 15); and

the storage pool management module monitors available capacity of each backup virtual volume and allocates and de-allocates storage volumes for each backup virtual volume from the storage pool (the backup agent responds to a request made by the host for a backup routine (i.e. change in storage capacity). The backup agent monitors the capacity by checking if any spare storage is available – Fig. 15 flow chart, col. 21, lines 16-63), wherein the storage pool is configured to store incremental storage data from an incremental storage operation on a volume (col. 19, lines 36-47 – the storage pool comprises at least one secondary and virtual volume).

As for claim 20, Dunham teaches the storage module as being further configured to allocated and de-allocate a portion of a storage volume to the backup virtual volume (Fig. 15, if a spare volume is available, the next virtual volume will be assigned to it – col. 21, lines 16-63. Note additionally Dunham teaches de-allocating volumes after modification access – col. 6, line 33 through col. 7, line 17).

As for claim 21, Dunham teaches the baseline volume as being part of the storage pool (the baseline volume is contained within the secondary volume (Fig. 1, element 29)).

As for claim 22, Dunham teaches the policy management module as residing in a host (as per the rejection of claim 1, *supra*).

As for claim 18, Dunham teaches the incremental data comprising snapshot data of the primary volume (col. 5, lines 57 through col. 6, line 6 – the snapshot operation is performed in response to the backup operation).

Despite these teachings (including backup virtual volumes), Dunham fails to specifically teach incremental snapshots (i.e. storage) as claimed by Applicant, rather he teaches performing a full backup.

Manley however discloses a system and method for asynchronous mirroring of snapshots at a destination using a purgatory directory and inode mapping in which incremental snapshots are added subsequent to the base snapshot (paragraph 0074, all lines).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for Dunham to further include Manley's asynchronous mirroring of snapshots into his own virtual storage system. By doing so, Dunham have a more efficient snapshot mechanism, capable of only storing and transferring data that has been modified, rather than performing a full backup as taught by Manley in paragraph 0015, all lines.

5. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunham (US Patent 6,269,431 B1) and Manley (US PG Publication 2003/0182325 A1) as applied to claim 12 above, and in further view of Anaso et al. (US PG Publication 2003/0191909 A1), hereinafter Anaso.

As for claim 14, though Dunham in view of Manley teach all of the limitations of claim 12, they fail to teach changing a storage capacity of the backup virtual volume as

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further comprising alerting a user of a storage over-italicization or under-utilization and changing the storage capacity in response to user input.

Anaso however teaches a storage utilization monitoring system in which the system maintains a storage capacity table, which is used to notify the user in case of over or under utilization of storage capacity (paragraph 0047, all lines).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for Dunham and Manley to further include Anaso's storage utilization monitoring system into his own system of virtual storage devices for recovery of backup data. By doing so, Dunham would benefit by having a means more efficiently monitoring storage capacity by eliminating the need for a computer itself to perform the monitoring process. This in turn would help Dunham's system to realize could help reduce system management costs incurred by system monitoring, as taught by Anaso (paragraph 0014, all lines).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered however they are not persuasive. More specifically, Applicant's arguments (i.e. ONLY submission provided with the RCE filed 21 September 2007) are identical to the arguments filed on 31 August 2007, which were entered and previously fully considered by Examiner (i.e. Advisory Action issued 31 August addressed all arguments set forth at that time). Examiner clearly entered this submission to the record (note the Examiner entered the amendment and initialed the Amendment After Final request form on 30 August 2007).

As such, Examiner maintains all rejections as per the rejections and arguments set forth in the previous Office action made FINAL 21 June 2007, and the Advisory Action mailed 31 August 2007. Examiner restates aspects of the arguments set forth in said Advisory Action for Applicant's convenience below.

7. In the response filed 21 September 2007, Applicant reasserts arguments previously set forth during prosecution, and further presents rebuttal arguments to Examiner's arguments presented under the heading "Response to Arguments" in the action made FINAL 21 June 2007.

Under the "Remarks" heading of Applicant's response, Applicant discusses alleged deficiencies with Dunham's disclosure at length in paragraphs 0005, 007-0011 and 0013, however fails to address whether or not the previously cited Manley reference teaches any of these alleged deficiencies. In fact, Examiner is unable to locate even a single instance in which Manley's teachings were discussed with respect to the patentability of claim 1 within these paragraphs, notwithstanding the fact that claim 1 was rejected by a combination of both the Dunham and Manley references. Applicant is reminded "[o]ne cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. In re Keller, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); In re Merck & Co., Inc., 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986)" pursuant to MPEP § 2145. As such, the arguments set forth under paragraphs 0005, 0007-0011 and 0013 are not persuasive. Examiner further notes that Applicant's arguments set forth in the aforementioned paragraphs are directed to claim 1 (an apparatus claim), in which the alleged deficiencies of Dunham's

teachings are related to not structural elements, but their intended function (note the "configured to" language used throughout this claim). Applicant is reminded, "[w]hile features of an apparatus may be recited either structurally or functionally, claims directed to an apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of structure rather than function. In re Schreiber, 128 F.3d 1473, 1477-78, 44 USPQ2d 1429, 1431-32 (Fed. Cir. 1997)" pursuant to MPEP § 2114.

In paragraphs 0014-0017 Applicant attempts to attack Examiner's previously asserted motivation to combine Dunham and Manley's disclosures. For example in paragraph 0014, Applicant asserts, "Dunham teaches away from an incremental storage system of any type". This argument however is not persuasive, as Examiner previously addressed this argument in the correspondence of record mailed 21 June 2007 (Final Rejection). Applicant continues in paragraph 0015 by contending that Examiner was led to the combination of Dunham and Manley "merely through impermissible hindsight by using Claim 1 as a roadmap to find missing elements". This argument however is not persuasive, as Examiner maintains that motivation to combine Dunham and Manley's teachings was found explicitly within Manley's teachings, hence Examiner did not rely on impermissible hindsight, Applicant's arguments notwithstanding. Under paragraph 0016, Applicant contends, "Suggestion and motivation to combine only makes sense in that an application that is missing an element provide some hint, some direction, something that one of skill in the art can latch onto and be directed to another application containing the missing element to combine the applications", further continuing "[t]he relevant inquiry is not whether a

reference contains something that describes an element, but whether or not there is a motivation for making the combination. The Applicants assert that there is not." This argument however is not persuasive. Examiner maintains that the previously asserted prima facie case of obviousness was properly established because the asserted motivation to combine was explicitly extracted from the teaching reference's disclosure, explaining why it would have been obvious to combine the references as a whole (not a particular element from each respective reference) - see Office action mailed 21 June 2007, page 6, lines 6-15. As such, Examiner sufficiently met the requisite burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness for these claims, constant with § 103(a) of the Code.

Lastly, Applicant reasserts, "Dunham teaches away from an incremental backup." Again, this argument however is not persuasive as Examiner addressed this argument in the correspondence of record mailed 21 June 2007 (Final Rejection). Applicant's arguments that the remaining independent claims are allegedly allowable for similar reasons as claim 1, and that all dependant claims are allowable for further limiting a alleged allowable base claim are rendered moot, as Examiner maintains the rejections to these claims as per the arguments presented in this correspondence, and the arguments and rejections in the Office action made FINAL mailed 21 June 2007.

Conclusion

8. This is an RCE of applicant's earlier Application No. 10/713,445. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been

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finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

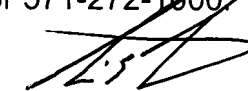
9. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Craig E. Walter whose telephone number is (571) 272-8154. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30a - 5:00p M-F.

11. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on (571) 272-6799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

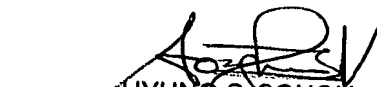
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12. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Craig E Walter
Examiner
Art Unit 2188

CEW



HYUNG S. SOUH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

10/29/07